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THE WORLD ECONOMY AT THE END OF 1990: SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS AND EMERGING ISSUES

Note by the Secretary-General

I. OVERVIEW: SLOWDOWN AND TRANSFORMATION

The year 1990 was not one of expansion in the world economy but it was a year of dramatic events of great portent for the future, both in the near term and the long term.

The per capita output of the world declined for the first time since 1982. Overall global output grew by only 1 per cent in 1990, as against 3 per cent in 1989 and more than 4 per cent in 1988. Although many Asian economies stayed on a steep growth path, slow-downs occurred in North America and Europe, Africa remained stagnant, Latin America was in decline, and the economies of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union were in disarray. During 1991, growth is expected to slow down further in most parts of the world but to improve somewhat in Latin America. The global rate of growth is expected to remain roughly the same.

The crisis in the Gulf and the United Nations embargo had an immediate impact on the region and on a dozen countries in Africa and Asia whose migrant labourers had been employed in Iraq and Kuwait. It also produced a shock that left no country untouched, as the price of oil suddenly doubled and then moved nervously in response to the rumours of war.

In Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the central planning systems were being dismantled, and the arrangements for trade and payments among these countries under the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) essentially collapsed. However, new institutions and practices of market-based economic systems did not emerge immediately. The inevitable disruption of production and distribution and the problems of inflation and unemployment remain severe.

The failure to conclude the Uruguay Round before the end of 1990 reinforced widespread concerns about the formation of trading blocs, the trends towards bilateralism and the rule of economic power in international trade.

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Seen against the background of the changes that have taken place in international financial and foreign exchange markets in the last decade, developments in 1990 confirm that the system of international economic relations is in a process of fundamental transformation. The basic features of the international economic order that came into being after the Second World War have disappeared or eroded under the impact of the globalization of the world economy and the demise of central planning. The contours of a new system that can meet and reconcile the interests of the nations of the world and promote international development remain unclear. The process by which it is taking shape is not one of implementation of a grand design under strong leadership but one of adaptive responses and crisis management.

II. DEVELOPMENTS IN 1990: SHOCKS AND ADJUSTMENTS

A. Ramifications of the crisis in the Gulf

The Gulf crisis amounted to a serious shock to the world economy, although it was not the principal cause of the slow-down of 1990. The slow-down had several independent sources - especially the hesitant recession in the major industrialized countries, the transition problems in Eastern Europe and the stabilization efforts in Latin America. It is estimated that the rise in oil prices and the other consequences of the crisis - the trade embargo, the loss of remittances, the repatriation of migrant labour - reduced the growth of world output in 1990 by some 0.3 per cent.

However, this underestimates the impact. The rise in oil prices produced a substantial redistribution of real income between producers and consumers of oil in the second half of the year. The change in the terms of trade reduced real income, as distinct from output, in oil-importing countries. In poor or heavily indebted developing countries this disrupted the balance of payments, increased debt-servicing difficulties, and destroyed the premises of stabilization programmes. Everywhere it contributed to a rise in price levels, which although different from domestically induced inflation, tended to intensify deflationary policies. In Eastern Europe the new oil prices added to an already painful contraction.

The countries that were exposed to varying combinations of worsening terms of trade and losses of workers' remittances, in addition to stagnation or decline in domestic output, suffered large falls in per capita income, in many cases more than 5 per cent.

Oil is by far the biggest item in world trade and the life-blood of virtually all economies. Not only did the steep rise in oil prices have serious consequences, but also their volatility reduced the predictability of the world economy. Oil prices had been falling over the first six months of the year - from a monthly average of $19 per barrel in January to $15 in July (see figure 1). With the outbreak of the crisis, they rose to $33 in October but fell back below $30 in November and to around $25 by mid-December, as the prospect of war receded.

B. The loss of momentum in world output

The steep drop in the growth of gross world output from 4.3 per cent in 1988 and 2.9 per cent in 1989 to 1 per cent in 1990 was due to set-backs in all regions (see table). The number of people living in countries with declining per capita output rose from around 700 million in 1989 to 1.2 billion in 1990, nearly a quarter of the world population. The increase was in great part due to the fall in per capita output in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

In the developed market economies the slow-down signals the end of an unusually long period of steady growth, but not necessarily the onset of an actual decline in output. The deceleration in developing countries in 1990 had only a tenuous link with that in the industrialized world; to a large extent it was the deliberate effect of stabilization policy.

1. Retardation of growth in Western industrialized economies

When growth in the developed market economies dropped to an estimated 2.5 per cent in 1990, it was greatly below the peak of 4.3 per cent in 1988 but still higher than the 1981-1986 average (see table).

The deceleration was especially sharp in the United States of America and Canada, where output growth for 1990 is estimated at only 1 per cent, as compared with 2.5 per cent in 1989. In Japan, growth accelerated from 4.9 per cent in 1989 to 5.5 per cent in 1990; not until the last quarter was there a significant loss of momentum. In Germany, too, the rate of growth remained unchanged, at around 4 per cent, and the United Kingdom fell back from 2 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

Growth in Germany and Japan was largely sustained by high rates of domestic investment. Japanese exports also accelerated, and in Germany consumption increased in connection with reunification. In the United States consumer demand weakened and the investment rate was one of the lowest in this group of countries; but exports were strong, apparently stimulated by the fall of the dollar.

Unemployment began to rise in recent months in the United States and Canada, but the United States' rate remained, after Japan, the lowest in the major industrialized economies. In other big countries unemployment declined slowly but remained high by historical standards.

Inflation has accelerated since 1987. The average consumer price index for the seven major economies rose by 5 per cent in 1990, compared with 4.4 per cent in 1989 and 3.2 per cent in 1988. The containment of inflation remained an overriding objective, and restrictive monetary policy was the main plank of macro-economic policy in most countries. Short-term interest rates rose in many economies except the United States, where a weakening of aggregate demand and a growing concern over the health of financial institutions and the increasing number of debt-ridden enterprises led to a moderate relaxation of credit policy. In the United Kingdom, which had the highest rate of inflation, short-term interest rates were raised

sharply in 1989 and again in 1990, but in France and Italy they were lowered in order to push down the value of their currencies in the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

2. Growth and stagnation in developing countries

South and East Asia remained the most rapidly expanding region in the world in 1990, with overall GDP expanding at close to 6 per cent. The impact of slow growth in the United States was attenuated by strong growth in Japan and by the depreciation of their currencies vis-à-vis the yen. In the Republic of Korea, despite the slow growth of exports, increased domestic consumption and a construction boom raised the rate of growth to some 8.5 per cent, which maintained the regional average in spite of the deceleration in Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan, Province of China.

Some South Asian countries, notably Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, were very adversely affected by the Gulf crisis, but it was a good year for agriculture on the subcontinent. Despite political disturbances and increasing fiscal and external deficits, India grew as fast as in 1989.

The economies of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand grew at 7 to 9 per cent, driven by strong domestic demand and high levels of domestic and foreign investment, but bottle-necks in infrastructure, rising costs and expansionary monetary policies contributed to a resurgence of inflationary pressures.

In China, after a decade of average growth of 10 per cent a year, policy brakes brought growth down to 4 per cent in 1989, where it essentially remained in 1990. Inflation has been reduced from double-digit rates, exports have increased significantly and imports have been curtailed. Monetary policy has now been eased and became expansionary in the first half of 1990. By contrast with the success of stabilization policies, economic reform has temporarily been relegated to a low priority.

In West Asia, the impact of the Gulf crisis has been immediate and immense. The oil exports from Iraq and Kuwait that have been stopped are estimated at 4.3 million barrels a day. Other oil-exporting countries increased their output to bridge the supply gap, but crisis stocking raised demand and produced a substantial price increase, which further enhanced oil revenues. The oil-exporting countries of West Asia, excluding Iraq and Kuwait, had an increase in oil revenues in 1990 of about $27 billion. The decline in aggregate output in Iraq, Kuwait and Jordan, on the other hand, has been precipitous and probably offset the growth of output elsewhere.

In Africa, agriculture constitutes about a third of the GDP of the region, and good weather conditions led to higher growth in agricultural output. Growth is estimated to have improved to 3.5 per cent, slightly above the population growth rate of 3 per cent. Many countries have changed their development strategies considerably. However, most of them suffer from serious structural weaknesses, and policy reforms have yet to translate into sustained growth. Regional wars and

civil strife remain a devastating obstacle to economic and social progress in many countries (Angola, Chad, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia and the Sudan). Where war is coupled with drought, the risk of famine is high.

Oil is Africa's biggest export commodity, and some countries have benefited from the rise in oil prices - several North African countries, Angola, Cameroon, the Congo, Gabon and Nigeria. However, the gains to some North African oil exporters have been offset by the loss of trade and workers remittances in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis.

The Latin American region had the worst year of all the regions. Output was stagnant or even declining. The worsening of conditions in 1990 was due to serious domestic disequilibria and the lack of rapid success of the anti-inflationary programmes in some of the largest economies, as well as to the slow-down in the United States and, for the oil-importers, the increase in oil prices. In Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay output contracted. Chilean GDP grew marginally after the unsustainable growth of 10 per cent in 1989. For the oil-exporters, particularly Mexico and Venezuela, the higher oil prices provided slightly more room for manoeuvre.

3. Painful transition in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

The euphoria engendered by the dramatic political changes in late 1989 and early 1990 has given way to an awakening to the enormity of the economic transformation ahead. The debate on the kind of reform to be sought and the pace of implementing it is still going on.

The assessment of production trends in the region is necessarily precarious. Tentative estimates suggest that the contraction of aggregate output in 1990 was of the order of 12 per cent for Eastern Europe, and 4 per cent or more for the Soviet Union. In Czechoslovakia and Hungary, the contraction has been relatively mild, of the order of 2-3 per cent, while in Poland and Romania it may have been 15-20 per cent. East Germany is a special case, but one of particular interest owing to the remarkable speed at which it was integrated with the Federal Republic; not unexpectedly there was a severe adjustment recession.

Industry has been in particularly steep decline, approximately 20 per cent in Eastern Europe, while agriculture has been less affected. But harvesting, transportation, storage and distribution problems have come to loom large, especially in the Soviet Union, where an emergency food programme for the winter has been introduced. Gross investment has probably contracted by as much as 20 per cent in Eastern Europe and around 7 per cent in the Soviet Union.

The rise in energy prices benefits the Soviet economy, which is a large fuel exporter, but oil production has been falling as the result of low investment and maintenance.

Foreign trade was a constraining factor for all these economies, and the collapse of the CMEA system resulted in severe disruption.

C. Continued expansion of world trade but commodities down

World trade was remarkably buoyant in 1990, given the slow-down in output. The volume of world exports increased by 5.5 per cent, not much less than the 7 per cent of 1989. The Gulf crisis had only a minor impact on world trade because the loss of oil output due to the crisis was quickly made up and the trade of the two countries under the United Nations embargo constituted only 1 per cent of world imports.

Non-fuel commodities account for a large proportion of the export earnings of developing countries. They declined further in 1990 after a modest recovery in 1988-1989 (see figure 2).

The average dollar price index for the first nine months of 1990 was 6 per cent below that of the same period last year. Tropical beverages were down 13 per cent, and coffee more than 20 per cent, although cocoa has recovered from the lows of 1989. Minerals were down by 9 per cent on the average, and only agricultural raw materials seemed steady.

But prices of manufactured exports rose in 1990, so real prices of non-fuel commodities in terms of the manufactured exports they could buy fell by 13 per cent in the first nine months of 1990 over the same period in 1989. The combination of weaker prices for non-fuel commodities and higher prices for manufactures and oil produced a big balance-of-payments shock for oil-importing developing countries.

D. The unfinished Uruguay Round

The suspension, in December, of the Uruguay Round over the issue of agricultural supports and export subsidies was a major disappointment. In the present climate of economic slow-down, the pressure for trade restrictions is likely to intensify. Tactical moves to influence the final outcome before negotiations resume might endanger the drive for liberalization, and rules and disciplines.

Yet, the talks in Brussels have served to bring into clearer focus the interests and the concerns of the negotiating parties. Considerable progress has been made in many areas of this enormously complex negotiation, and if a compromise can be reached between the parties who are locked in dispute on agriculture, the Uruguay Round may yet make a historical contribution to the bolstering of the multilateral trading system.

E. International debt situation set back by oil shock

The external debt burden remained an obstacle to the resumption of growth in many countries. However, negotiations between creditors and debtors were evolving. Debt-service payments as a proportion of exports have declined as export earnings have grown. A growing number of debtors have gone into arrears, but some have managed to settle their arrears with the international financial institutions.

Commercial creditors have made extensive provisions in anticipation of write-offs of unserviceable debts and have in many cases reluctantly recognized the compelling circumstances of the debtors; the resulting situations have been described as undeclared moratoria. Debt reduction, notably through buy-backs in secondary markets, and assisted by the new facility established in the World Bank, has been recognized as an approach that can be in the mutual interest of financial partners. Significant initiatives have been taken to reduce official debts of developing countries.

However, in 1990 the service on old debts, some of it to multilateral institutions, still exceeded new credits to such an extent that the net transfer of financial resources from developing countries remained a big concern. In 1989 it was about $24 billion, and given the prevailing high interest rates, the figure for 1990 is also likely to be quite high.

The oil shock after the Gulf crisis upset the process of accommodation by impairing the debt-servicing capacity of oil-importing developing countries. Heavily indebted oil-exporters, whether or not their agreements with creditors include an oil-price clause, will be expected to service their debts more amply than before.

III. CONTINUED WEAKNESS OF THE WORLD ECONOMY IN 1991

The Gulf crisis has given rise to great uncertainty about the price of oil. In case of war in the region, panic stockpiling could temporarily drive prices up way beyond present levels - serious observers talk of $50 or even $100 per barrel as possibilities in such a scenario, in spite of the fact that stocks are already very high. Conversely, a quick and peaceful resolution might result in a price of $10 per barrel.

This discrepancy is enormous, and if the crisis is prolonged, the uncertainty will be aggravated. However, if prices remain at present levels, the difficulties ensuing from this oil shock will probably be less serious than those that resulted from the two earlier ones, in 1974 and 1979.

In industrialized countries, domestic demand conditions and monetary policies seem more important. In 1990, real interest rates were lower in the United States than in Germany and Japan, and the exchange rate of the dollar against the SDR fell to its lowest level ever.

The United States external-payments deficit has receded from the centre of international concern in recent years, as it was easily financed in 1988 and 1989. The recent outflow of capital in response to high foreign interest rates may change that perception. The rising domestic fiscal deficit, on the other hand, is a source of both national and international concern.

Oil-importing developing countries may find themselves in a worse situation in 1991 than in 1990. The demand for their primary exports will remain weak, and the financing needed to meet their current account deficits is not in sight. The

International Monetary Fund (IMF) decision to introduce an oil-import element in its compensatory financing mechanism is an important step, but most of the gap would still have to be met by contraction.

In a plausible scenario for 1991 there is no great change in the world growth rate. The United States economy is expected to slow down further in 1991, from 1 per cent to 0.7 per cent. Western Europe would take a drop from 2.8 per cent to 2.2 per cent, and Japan could fall from 5.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

In developing countries, the pattern of recent years is expected to continue, with substantial per capita growth only in Asia. In Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, output is once more expected to decline, though not as steeply as in 1990.

IV. EMERGING ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

There is much tension and uncertainty in current international economic relations but also a climate of convergence and pragmatism. In the United Nations, this new spirit found expression in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly in May 1990, and more specifically in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly in December 1990. The Strategy reflects an important consensus on the nature of economic and social development. The recognition of the importance of increased international co-operation, of greater reliance on market forces, of human development and of the need to redress glaring inequalities, to respect human rights and to preserve the environment for future generations is producing a new agenda for international development and for government policies.

But the events of 1990 also raise some specific issues of great consequence. Five stand out as particularly significant:

(a) The energy supplies on which the world economy is dependent are in all respects precarious. The present crisis in the Gulf has once again demonstrated the great vulnerability of the oil market. The new awareness of the climatic consequences of the use of fossil fuels touches an even rawer nerve. In the end, it will be necessary to find another solution to the energy needs of modern societies or to change these societies radically. This perspective is becoming increasingly prevalent. It is clearly an emerging issue for the world community, but it is also one that Governments do not like to be reminded of.

(b) For most oil-importing developing countries, the prospect of oil prices that are substantially higher than in the first half of 1990 jeopardizes their adjustment programmes; and for those of them that are highly indebted, the problem is greatly magnified. The question raised is once again one of the mix of adjustment and finance, and to what extent the international community should help countries finance external shocks over which they have no control.

(c) The economic difficulties of the countries that have engaged in a transition from central planning to a market-oriented economic and political system must inevitably call for international attention. The initial concerns of developing countries who feared that Eastern Europe would absorb capital and attention have proved largely groundless, but the problems remain large and serious.

(d) The international trading system poses problems beyond the stalemated GATT talks. The trends towards bilateral arrangements and bloc formation are likely to continue because they respond to interests in regional and other forms of co-operation that do not necessarily conflict with multinational approaches in other areas.

(e) Finally, there are the consequences of the trends towards greater ease of communication throughout the world, which relentlessly force a new openness in economic affairs on all countries of the world, with or without formal arrangements. To control the movements of people, funds or illegal drugs is proving virtually impossible. Many Governments still have important policy instruments to use in their efforts to pursue stabilization and development, but efforts to insulate a country from the world economy through restrictions on movements of money or individuals seem to lead to impoverishment, capital flight and brain drain.

Growth of output by region and selected country groupings, 1981-1991

	Annual percentage rate of change						Population 1990 (millions)
	1981-1986	1987	1988	1989	1990 a/	1991 b/	
World	2.7	3.3	4.3	2.9	1.0	1.2	5 292
Developed market economies	2.4	3.3	4.3	3.3	2.5	1.8	816
North America	2.6	3.4	4.4	2.5	1.0	0.7	276
Western Europe	1.7	2.7	3.7	3.4	2.8	2.2	361
Developed Asia and Pacific	3.6	4.5	5.4	4.8	4.8	3.2	144
Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union c/	2.9	2.1	4.0	1.2	-6.0	-4.0	402
Developing countries	2.5	4.4	4.8	3.2	2.8	3.5	4 093
Western hemisphere	1.0	2.8	0.5	1.1	-0.5	1.5	448
West Asia	-1.2	-1.1	0.2	1.4	0.0	0.0	75
South and East Asia	5.1	6.9	8.5	5.8	5.8	5.5	1 743
China	9.9	10.6	11.4	4.0	4.0	5.5	1 139
Africa	-0.9	0.7	2.1	3.0	3.6	3.5	607
Mediterranean	3.1	3.7	1.4	1.0	1.0	3.0	81
Memorandum items:							
Heavily indebted countries d/	-0.7	2.3	0.9	1.4	-0.6	3.0	612
Sub-Saharan Africa e/	1.4	1.0	1.7	2.1	2.8	3.0	383

Source: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, based on data provided by the regional commissions, Project LINK and other sources.

a/ Preliminary estimates.

b/ Forecast. For the groups of developing countries, estimates are rounded to the nearest half percentage point.

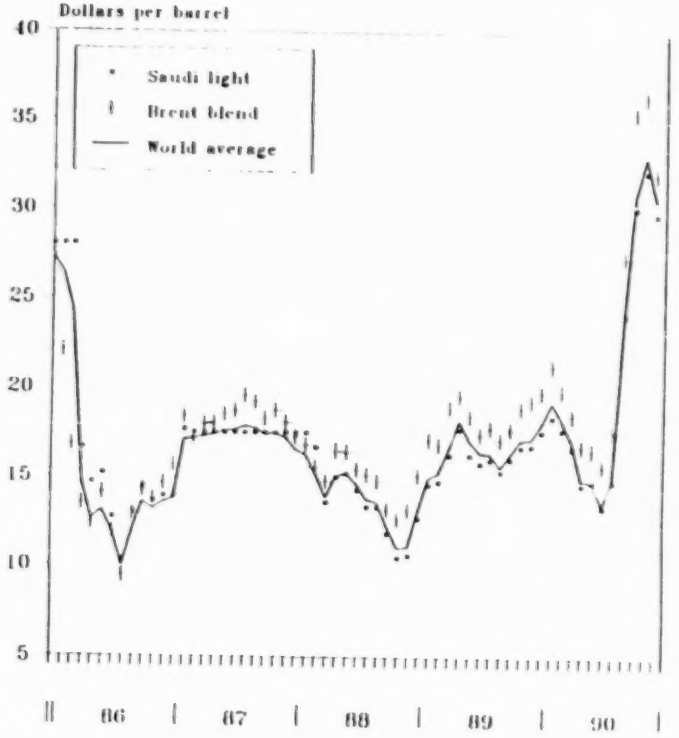
c/ Net material product.

d/ The countries in this group are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

e/ Excluding Nigeria.

Figure 1

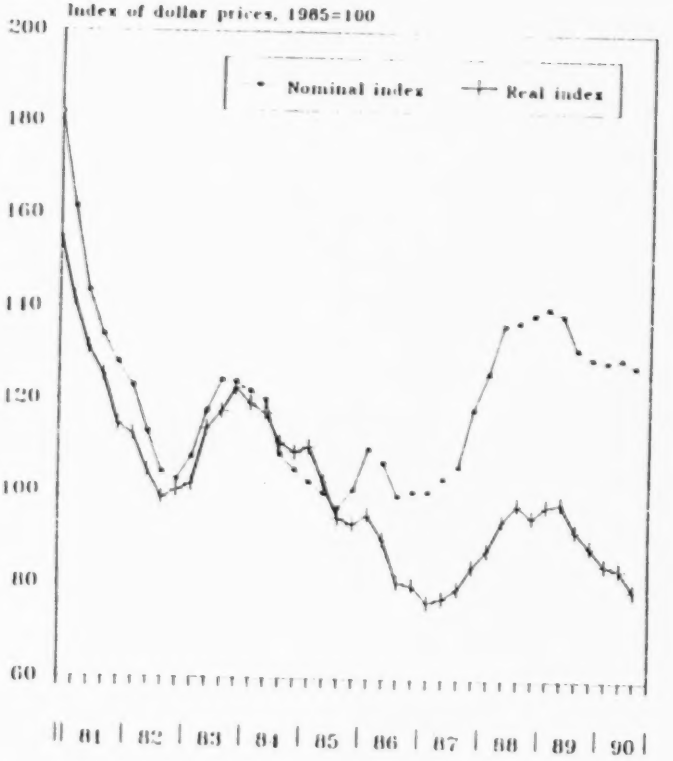
WORLD PETROLEUM PRICES, 1986-1990



Source: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, based on United States Department of Energy data.

Figure 2

NON-FUEL COMMODITY EXPORT PRICES, 1981-1990



Source: Data of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

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CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS FOR 1991

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat is circulating herewith a list of meetings of intergovernmental and expert bodies in the economic, social and related fields to be held in 1991.

MEETINGS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXPERT BODIES IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN 1991

Dates	Venue	Title
14-18 January	New York	Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, eleventh session
16-25 January	Geneva	Commission on Human Rights - Working Group on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
21-25 January	Geneva	Commission on Human Rights - Working Group on Situations
21-25 January	Geneva	Commission on Human Rights - Group of Three established under the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid
21-29 January	Geneva	UNCTAD - Committee on Transfer of Technology, eighth session
21 January-1 February	Vienna	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, tenth session
21 January-1 February	New York	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
28-29 January	Vienna	Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East
28 January-8 March	Geneva	Commission on Human Rights, forty-seventh session
30 January	New York	Economic and Social Council - organizational session (Election of Bureau)
30 January-8 February	Vienna	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-fourth session
4-8 February	Geneva	UNCTAD - Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget, twentieth session
4-13 February	New York	Statistical Commission, twenty-sixth session

Dates	Venue	Title
4-14 February	Washington, D.C.	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a framework convention on climate change, first session
5-6 February	New York	UNICEF - Executive Board, organizational session
5-8 February	New York	Economic and Social Council, organizational session
5-8 February	New York	Committee for Development Planning - Working Group I
11-20 February	Vienna	Commission for Social Development, thirty-second session
14-15 February	New York	Committee for the United Nations Population Award
19-22 February	New York	INSTRAW - Board of Trustees, eleventh session
19-22 February	New York	UNDP - Governing Council, organizational meeting and special session
20-28 February	Bangkok	Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific
27 February-8 March	New York	Population Commission, twenty-sixth session
27 February-8 March	Vienna	Commission on the Status of Women, thirty-fifth session
4-22 March	Geneva	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, thirty-ninth session
5-15 March	New York	Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, ninth session
11-22 March	Geneva	UNCTAD - Trade and Development Board, thirty-seventh session, second part
18-22 March	New York	Human Rights Committee - Working Group on Communications
18-22 March*	New York	Commission on Human Rights - Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, thirty-third session

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* Subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council.

Dates	Venue	Title
18 March-5 April*	Geneva	Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, second session
25 March-4 April	New York	Committee on Natural Resources, twelfth session
25 March-12 April	New York	Human Rights Committee, forty-first session
1-5 April	New York	UNITAR - Board of Trustees, twenty-ninth session
1-10 April	Seoul	ESCAP, forty-seventh session
First or second quarter	Tehran	Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East
9-19 April	Geneva	ECE, forty-sixth session
10-19 April	New York	Commission on Transnational Corporations, seventeenth session
15 April	New York	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, organizational session
22-26 April	New York	Committee for Development Planning, twenty-seventh session
22 April-3 May	New York	Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, eleventh session
22 April-3 May	New York	UNICEF - Executive Board, Committee on Administration and Finance, Programme Committee
22 April-3 May	Geneva	Committee against Torture, sixth session
25-26 April	New York	ECLAC - Committee of the Whole, twenty-first session
29 April-8 May	Harare	Commission on Human Settlements, thirteenth session

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* May be extended to 12 April if required.

Dates	Venue	Title
April (3 days)	Geneva	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, first regular session
April (1 week)	New York	Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women, twenty-ninth session
April (1 week)	Addis Ababa	Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, African Region
April	Addis Ababa	ECA - Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, twelfth meeting
April	Addis Ababa	ECA - Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, twenty-sixth session of the Commission
April/May (1 week)	Baghdad	ESCWA, sixteenth session
7-31 May	New York	Economic and Social Council, first regular session
13 May-7 June	New York	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, thirty-first session
20-28 May	Geneva	UNCTAD - Special Committee on Preferences, eighteenth session
20-31 May	Nairobi	UNEP - Governing Council - sixteenth session
27 May-7 June	Vienna	International Narcotics Control Board, forty-ninth session
28-31 May	New York	High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, seventh session
May-June	Rome	Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, thirty-first session
3-28 June	New York	UNDP - Governing Council, thirty-eighth session
3-28 June	New York	UNDP - Governing Council - Budgetary and Finance Committee
1-5 July	Geneva	Human Rights Committee - Working Group on Communications

Dates	Venue	Title
1-12 July	Geneva	Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods - Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, fourth session
3-26 July	Geneva	Economic and Social Council, second regular session
4-5 July	Geneva	Special High-Level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council in 1991
8-26 July	Geneva	Human Rights Committee, forty-second session
22 July-2 August	Geneva	Commission on Human Rights - Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities - Working Group on Communications
29 July-2 August	Geneva	Commission on Human Rights - Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities - Working Group on Indigenous Populations
29 July-2 August	Geneva	Commission on Human Rights - Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities - Group of Five on Slavery
July (1 week)	Geneva	UNCTAD - Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, sixth session
July (1 week)	Tokyo	UNU - Council, thirty-seventh session
5-23 August	Geneva	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, fortieth session
5-30 August	Geneva	Commission on Human Rights - Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-third session
12-30 August*	Geneva	Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, third session
26-30 August	Geneva	Commission on Human Rights - Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, thirty-fourth session

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* May be extended to 4 September if required.

Dates	Venue	Title
29 August	Vienna	UNRWA - Advisory Commission
August (1 week)	New York	Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women, thirtieth session
9-13 September	Geneva	UNCTAD - Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget, twenty-first session
16-20 September	Geneva	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - pre-sessional Working Group
21 September-8 October	Punta del Este, Uruguay	UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, eighth session
23 September-4 October	Geneva	UNCTAD - Trade and Development Board, thirty-eighth session, first part
September (3 days)	Geneva	Statistical Commission - Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, fourteenth session
September (1 week)	Santiago	Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin American and Caribbean Region
September (8 days)	New York	Tenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance
September-October	Geneva	Group of Experts on Geographical Names, fifteenth session
1-15 October	Geneva	UNHCR - Executive Committee, forty-second session
7-25 October	Vienna	International Narcotics Control Board, fiftieth session
14-18 October	Geneva	Human Rights Committee - Working Group on Communications
21-25 October	Geneva	UNCTAD - Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices, tenth session
21 October-8 November	Geneva	Human Rights Committee, forty-third session

Dates	Venue	Title
October (3 days)	New York	Joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
October (3 days)	A capital in the region	Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East
October (3 days)	New York	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, second regular session
October	Rome	Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, thirty-second session
11-19 November	Geneva	UNCTAD - Working Group on International Shipping Legislation, thirteenth session
11-22 November	Geneva	Committee against Torture, seventh session
21-29 November	Geneva	UNCTAD - Committee on Manufactures, thirteenth session
25 November-13 December	Geneva	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, sixth session
26 November	Geneva	Second meeting of States Parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
27 November-6 December	Geneva	Commission on Human Rights - Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, thirty-fifth session
November (1 week)	Bangkok	Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and Pacific Region
November (2 days)	New York	United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities
2-6 December	Geneva	UNCTAD - Committee on Tungsten, twenty-third session
2-13 December	Geneva	Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods - Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, fifth session

Dates	Venue	Title
9-13 December	Geneva	Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters
December (1 week)	Tokyo	UNU - Council, thirty-eighth session
December (3 days)	New York	UNDP - Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting
As required (up to 12 weeks)	Geneva	UNCTAD - other working parties, study groups and expert groups
To be determined (1 week)	Geneva	Commission on Human Rights - meeting of representatives of national institutions and organizations to promote tolerance and harmony and combat racism and racial discrimination
To be determined (1 week)	Geneva	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development - Legal and Institutional Working Group, first session
To be determined (1 week)	Geneva	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development - Legal and Institutional Working Group, second session
To be determined (1 week)	Addis Ababa	African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
To be determined (1 week)	Baghdad	Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
To be determined (1 week)	Bangkok	Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
To be determined (1 week)	Santiago	Latin America and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
To be determined (4 days)	Rome	WFC, seventeenth ministerial session

Dates	Venue	Title
To be determined (1 day)	Geneva	Special High-level Council for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
To be determined	New York	Committee for Development Planning - Working Group I
To be determined	Geneva	Committee for Development Planning - Working Group II
To be determined	New York	Committee for Development Planning - Working Group III
To be determined	Geneva	UNCTAD - Trade and Development Board, seventeenth special session
To be determined (1 week)	Geneva	Scientific and Technical Committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, first session
To be determined (1 week)	Geneva	Scientific and Technical Committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, second session
To be determined (1 week)	Geneva	Scientific and Technical Committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, third session

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